

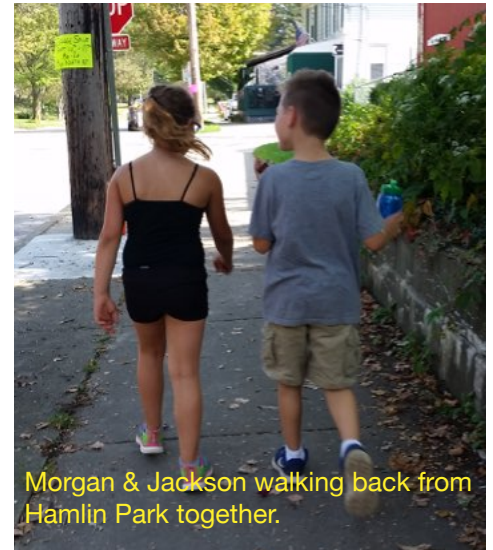
Mandala School Newsletter

18 - 29 September 2017

As part of our ecology studies we are taking the students into different environments so they can make comparisons. This begins with observation in a general way and grows into more detailed analysis.

Most of our students spend very little time in natural surroundings. The trip to the gorge allows them to see the majesty and power of nature forces along with the life of the area. As we make additional trips, they begin to notice more and more.

Following the gorge trip, we were at two smaller valleys: Shale Creek (Eternal Flame) and Hunter's Creek. Almost subconsciously, they are learning to know different environments. When we discuss ecological concepts such as bio-diversity, succession, carbon cycle, and sustainability, the children will be able to draw on real-life experiences for examples.



Morgan & Jackson walking back from Hamlin Park together.



Thursday, October 12th the school will be taking a full day trip to Allegany State Park. We will hike, eat lunch, go to the bear caves, and more! If you are interested in coming please notify Dr. John, Kelsey, or Natalie!



Left: the advanced art class learned about the harms plastic can cause to the environment, especially the oceans. They created beautiful butterflies out of recycled plastic containers. Check them out in the front garden at school.





Ethan & Graham
playing at the park!

Student of the Week: Morgan

Hi, my name is Morgan, I am seven years old. I live in Lancaster. I am happy and funny. When I grow up I want to be a counselor. My greatest fantasy would be to fly around the world. My favorite song is "Demons" by Imagine Dragons and my favorite movie is *Barbie Dolphin Magic*! If I could solve any problem I would stop animal abuse.



Eternal Flame Field Trip

Despite the first day of fall, last Friday, the extreme temperatures have stretched the feeling of summer. We decided to spend Tuesday near water under a canopy of trees. We arrived at the top of the trail at Chestnut Ridge Park in Orchard Park and took a short hike to the Eternal Flame. On the way we had an ecology hunt, each group had to find things like a producer, a consumer, proof of succession, part of the Carbon cycle, a vascular plant, a limiting factor, and more!

vascular plant

focused students



dead leaves = proof of Carbon cycle



part of an energy cycle

Left: Brick climbs close to the flame to roast a marshmallow

Right: Alex, Jackson, & Marty identify an American Chestnut, a rare find in New York!



Whales
By Keltrian

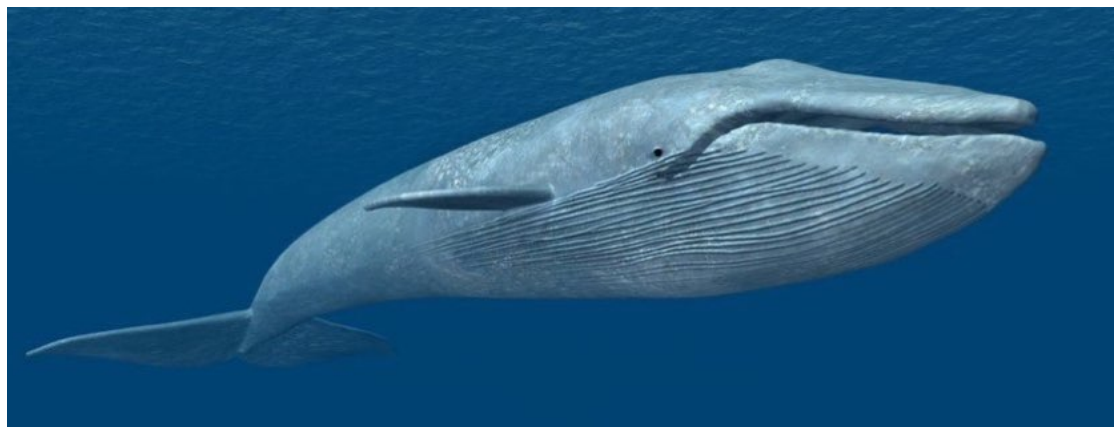
Whales are sea animals that are mammals. A mammal feeds its baby milk, is warm-blooded, and has fur or hair.

Whales are in two groups: baleen or toothed. Baleen is like those spaghetti things that hold the noodles but let the water out. On a baleen whale it holds in the shrimp and other food. A toothed whale might eat other whales, fish, or seals.

A blue whale is the largest animal and is 100 feet long. That is 50 of my steps.

18 September 2017

DON'T FORGET
Next week we are off
Thursday and Friday for
Columbus Day
weekend. We return to
school, Tuesday
October 10th!



**From everyone at Mandala, we'd like to say a BIG,
PLAYFUL "THANK YOU" to Sia's mom, Deb, for our
new playground! WE LOVE IT!**

